



Photo by J. Rich Garcia

Lab technologies displayed at space symposium

Cecilia Luna, with Air Force Research Laboratory’s Directed Energy Directorate, discusses the laboratory’s telescope capabilities with two young visitors to last week’s 19th National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colo. Both Kirtland AFB directorates–Directed Energy and Space Vehicles–were among the six lab directorates that showcased their technologies at the four-day event. In the foreground is a model of the 3.67-meter telescope located at the laboratory’s Maui (Hawaii) Space Surveillance Site. This telescope is the largest in DOD and is used for research and to gather images of objects in Earth’s orbit.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment statistics for March

- Major**–Involved in a domestic violence incident while under the influence of alcohol.
- Four members, airman 1st class-staff sergeant**–Involved in an alcohol related incident, which is under investigation.
- Senior airman**–Reported to the emergency room for suspected alcohol poisoning.
- Airman 1st class**–Reported for having alcohol in his dorm room while under age.
- Specialist**–Was reported for security violations that occurred while under the influence of alcohol.
- Staff sergeant**–Reported for an alco-

- hol related incident involving possession and reckless use of a firearm on base.
- Airman**–Reported to work while under the influence of alcohol.
- Technical sergeant**–Involved in an aggravated DWI off-base.
- Airman 1st class**–Involved in an underage drinking incident off-base.

Drug Demand Reduction Testing results for March

Tested: 224
Positives: 0

City bus transportation to base reliable in emergencies

BY JENNIFER E. WEST
377th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

During the Iraq war, bus riders may have been leery of hopping an Albuquerque SunTran bus for transportation to their jobs on Kirtland AFB.

With the yo-yoing price of vehicle gasoline, the near constant gridlock of city streets and the base entry gate lines consistently long, riding the bus makes sense and cents.

A primary concern for some riders is that the force protection condition on Kirtland AFB will change to Charlie or Delta, preventing buses from entering. That concern is based on the experience of riders at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that tightened security on the base to Force Protection Condition Charlie and, later, to Delta. Charlie is in effect when a terrorist attack is imminent, and Delta is in effect when a threat has occurred.

In 2001 when Delta went into effect, city buses were not permitted on the base. About eight months following the terrorist attacks, bus routes within the base were suspended by the city, and buses stopped outside the entry gates where passengers could walk onto the base. Bus ridership, which rose during the reconstruction of the Big-I dropped.

According to Kirtland AFB leadership, if force protection condition Charlie returns during the war with Iraq or for other reasons, buses will be able to continue entering and passengers’ identification will be checked and their bags may be searched.

Base entry concerns aside, why would you want to ride the bus to work?

Peter Behrman, the Tran-

sit Department director, explains that many people who become aware of the benefits of bus riding also grow enthusiastic about curbing their single occupant vehicle use.

“When people are made aware of the consequences of pollution, wasted fuel, (traffic) congestion and other negative consequences of driving alone, they become more conscientious of helping to reduce single occupant vehicles.”

And, financial savings by riding the bus can be considerable, adds Rose Murry, Transit Department marketing specialist. One AAA study reported a rider could save as much as \$5,242 annually for a 30-mile round-trip ride to work each day.

The Transit Department also refutes the most frequent complaint about riding the bus to work: it takes too long.

“A person should consider the time on the bus as de-stressing time. It is an opportunity to sit back relax and read, talk to people, network or even snooze.”

Bus ride prices are \$1 one-way for adults, 35 cents for students and senior citizens over 62 years with Transit identification and free for children younger than five years with a with a paying adult. For further savings, enroll in the ACT Now program. Kirtland AFB is a partner in the program that discounts monthly bus passes from \$28 to \$20. Passes are available from Sandia National Laboratories Credit Union and the Sandia Employee Recreation Program at Coronado Club.

Call 843-9200 for bus route and schedule information. Call 243-7433 to learn more about carpool, bike, vanpool and other alternative transportation information.

PROUD TO SERVE: March reenlistments

BY COL. KATHLEEN D. CLOSE

377th Air Base Wing commander

On behalf of the Kirtland AFB leadership, I would like to thank the men and women of TEAM KIRTLAND for their continued support of our great country.

I would especially like to thank and congratulate the following Airmen who reenlisted last month and thank their families for their continued support.

377th Medical Group

Senior Airman Rafael A. Brown, March 14

512th Rescue Squadron

Staff Sgt. Yuji K. Smith II, March 5

Staff Sgt. Gregory H. White, March 10

58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. Eduardo J. Dominguez, March 7

Master Sgt. David W. Jones, March 7

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

Master Sgt. Eloy Gonzales, March 13

Unit commanders get more control of leave program

A policy change returns the authority to unit commanders to approve permissive temporary duty and terminal leave of more than 90 days.

The Air Force’s instruction on military leave requires members wanting a combination of permissive temporary duty and terminal leave of more than 90 days to seek approval at group or wing level. It is that portion of Air Force Instruction 36-3003 that will be modified.

Instead of pushing approval paperwork up to the wing commander this policy change gives that approval authority to the unit commander.

Permissive temporary duty, often granted in conjunction with terminal leave, is leave granted at the discretion of a commander to retiring Airman and some separating Airmen to look for a new home

or job, Taylor said. Terminal leave is simply a period of regular leave that ends on the same day as a person’s separation or retirement date.

The current policy will not be reworded to make the change. Instead, portions of the instruction will be deleted.

The leave program has always been the unit commander’s responsibility. By taking those sections out of the AFL, it puts the entire program back on the unit commander.

The change is necessary because an increasing number of Air Force people are reaching retirement or separation dates with large amounts of accrued leave.

Gas pump safety still a concern

BY 2ND LT. KELLEY FINCHER

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Your neighborhood gas station already provides two of the three ingredients needed to start a fire: air and vapors coming off the gas. All it’s waiting for is a spark that you may unwittingly provide.

The Petroleum Equipment Institute has documented 150 gas station fires started by sparks from static electricity.

To protect you and your family at the pumps, follow these guidelines:

- ★ Turn off your engine.
- ★ Don’t smoke.
- ★ Put containers on the ground to fill.

According to the National Safety Council, it is not safe to fill a gasoline container on the back of your pickup equipped with a plastic bed liner. Static charge is generated by gasoline flowing into the container. Plastic is an insulator and prevents the static charge from grounding. The buildup may discharge through the metal gasoline nozzle, cause a spark and ignite the gasoline vapors.

- ★ Don’t reenter your vehicle while fueling.

It is not safe to reenter your vehicle because your clothing rubbing against your seats builds up static electricity. When you get back out of your vehicle, the charge again seeks a way to ground itself. In too many cases a fire was started when a person touches the gas nozzle causing a spark.

If you absolutely must get back inside your vehicle, make sure you touch something metal, like the car door, to ground the static charge before pulling out the gas nozzle.

“We care about your safety and ask for your personal commitment with these important issues at our gas stations,” said Chris Woodward, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Kirtland AFB general manager.

You can also prevent environmental hazards by heeding the following advice:

We care about your safety and ask for your personal commitment,’

Chris Woodward,
Kirtland AFB AAFES
general manager



Photo by Todd Berenger

Adam Gramarossa from Kirtland AFB Audio-Visual demonstrates what not to do at a gas station. Cell phones and dragging the hose across your car are both no-nos. The cell phone may generate a spark igniting gasoline fumes and stretching the hose across your vehicle can cause it to not shut off automatically.

- ★ Don’t top off your tank.
- ★ Don’t pull the hose across to the other side of your vehicle.

The latter does not allow the vapor lock to work properly and you could end up spilling more gas than you wanted to pay for.